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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Egypt

SUBJECT Eastward Orientation of Egyptian Policy

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1. A growing eastward [sic] orientation of Egyptian foreign policy is indicated by several factors. On the political side governmental action against the Communists is being abandoned or trailed out, and the trials of Communists have been postponed. There have been many conversations with the extremely active Soviet Ambassador David Solod.
2. On the economic side, an Egyptian armaments industry commission left of 6 Dec 53 to travel through the Eastern bloc countries. The itinerary includes Moscow, Warsaw (and the Polish harbors), Berlin, Sofia (and Black Sea ports), Bucharest, Budapest, Prague. The Commission consists of eight members and is headed by Brigadier Hassan Ragab. He is clever and able officer, politically indifferent, who shows no great friendship for the Soviets, very well regarded by other members of the Revolutionary Committee.
3. In addition to other matters the commission is to examine the general question of commercial exchange, including Egyptian cotton against machinery for the improvement of petroleum production.
4. An East Zone [sic] industrial office will be set up in Cairo in March 1954. Two large Russian radio stores are being opened in the commercial center in Cairo.

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